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NOVEMBER 2009

Eric Shanower: The Wizard Who Makes Oz Magic

Many creators become inseparably associated with their creations: *J.K. Rowling* will always be linked to Harry Potter, *Edgar Rice Burroughs* with Tarzan, *Robert E. Howard* with Conan...

Eric Shanower finds himself in a slightly different situation: he is inseparably associated with the creations of *L. Frank Baum*, author of ***The Wizard of Oz*** and numerous sequels.

Shanower, the writer of Marvel's acclaimed ***Wonderful Wizard of Oz*** adaptation and the upcoming ***Marvelous Land of Oz*** sequel, has been a fan of Baum's creation for almost his entire life—and a creator of Oz tales for much of that time, having begun telling his own Oz tales soon after he discovered Baum's magical creation.

Like many of us, Shanower first discovered the wonders of Oz through television rather than literature. "I saw the *Judy Garland* ***Wizard of Oz*** movie on TV when I was a kid. I'm from the generation that waited for that one special evening each year when ***The Wizard of Oz*** was broadcast.

"I loved the movie so much that when I found an abridgement of the book in the bookmobile, I immediately checked it out. And I loved that book so much that when I found four of Baum's full-length Oz books in a bookstore, I had to get one. My parents read me a chapter a night. After that I had to have all the Oz books. And that sort of progression has never really stopped. It's become a lot more esoteric—for instance, trying to find books that the Oz book illustrator *John R. Neill* illustrated under pseudonyms—but I still like finding new Oz stuff I've never seen or read before."

What led Shanower to create his own Oz tales? "After *L. Frank Baum* died, his publishers had other writers continue the Oz series. I decided early on that since plenty of people had written Oz books, why not me? So I started writing and illustrating my own Oz books at about eight years old. My Oz graphic novel series was simply the natural progression of what I'd been doing for years—writing and drawing new Oz stories, just continuing the Oz series as many other writers had done. I wasn't interested in doing adaptations—those stories had already been told."

Shanower's first major Oz work to see print appeared as a series of graphic novels published by First Comics and Dark Horse. "After the ***Oz*** graphic novels went out of print, I shopped them around for years with only tepid interest from various publishers before IDW asked me whether I'd be interested in having them reissued," Shanower said. "I'm very happy with ***Adventures in Oz***, the omnibus edition from IDW, and really glad that IDW will soon be releasing them in shorter volumes in a series titled ***Little Adventures in Oz***. I painted the cover for the first ***Little Adventures*** volume about a month ago.

"I certainly hope that my published Oz work will be in print forever—if Social Security is gone by the time I retire, I'll have to live on my royalties. A strategy I've had for my entire career in comics is to work on projects that will stay in print and keep generating an income."

Shanower's Oz contributions go beyond his graphic novels; he has written and illustrated several Oz prose volumes as well, for which he supplied the illustrations. "The ones I've written as well as illustrated are ***The Giant Garden of Oz***, published by Emerald City Press, a division of Books of Wonder; ***The Salt Sorcerer of Oz and Other Stories***, published by Hungry Tiger Press; and ***The Runaway in Oz***, published by Books of Wonder (I ghosted this book from a first draft of a *John R. Neill* manuscript; the text is still largely Neill's work).

I've illustrated lots of Oz books—too many to mention them all here, but here are a few that are available: ***The Living House of Oz*** by *Edward Einhorn*, from Hungry Tiger Press; ***The Wicked Witch of Oz*** by *Rachel Cosgrove Payes*, from The International Wizard of Oz Club; and ***The Rundelstone of Oz*** by *Eloise McGraw*, from Hungry Tiger Press.

How did Shanower find himself revisiting the land of Oz as writer of Marvel's adaptation? "I got an e-mail from *Chris Allo*, Talent Liaison at Marvel. He asked whether I'd be interested in writing the script for an adaptation of Baum's ***The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*** for an imprint they had at the time called Marvel Illustrated, which was adapting lots of classic fiction á la ***Classics Illustrated***. They moved Wizard out of that imprint pretty quickly—before the first issue was published—so it became just a regular Marvel comic. Still is."

In a field dominated by four-issue adaptations, does the eight-issue miniseries format of ***The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*** offer more creative freedom? "Marvel suggested six issues for ***Wizard*** at first," Shanower said. "I took a look at Baum's text and decided that eight issues would be necessary to really do the story justice. They had no problem with that."

Did Shanower ever consider both writing and illustrating an adaptation of the Baum classic? "In the past I've considered both writing and drawing a comics adaptation of ***The Wonderful Wizard of Oz***, but it was never something I specifically set out to do. Byron Preiss asked me once whether I'd be interested in that, but the timing wasn't right."

This month, Shanower and Marvel revisit Oz with the launch of ***The Marvelous Land of Oz***, adapting Baum's second novel. While almost everyone knows the story of ***The Wonderful Wizard of Oz***, the second novel is much less familiar. Shanower offered a synopsis to bring readers up to speed. "A young Oz boy, Tip, runs away from his guardian, the old witch Mombi. He takes along a living manikin with a pumpkin for a head, named Jack Pumpkinhead. They reach the Emerald City just as an army of young women led by General Jinjur overthrows the Scarecrow and kicks him off the throne of Oz. Tip and friends join forces with the Scarecrow and they beg help from the Tin Woodman to put the Scarecrow back on the throne of the Emerald City.

"Plans go awry and our heroes have to escape General Jinjur's army and seek Glinda the Good. There's a big showdown near the end between Glinda and Mombi that was really fun to adapt into a comics script. Other new characters are the living Saw-Horse; a man-sized insect named Mr. H. M. Woggle-bug, T. E.; and a flying machine called the Gump who's sort of a cross between a moose and a sofa."

While ***The Marvelous Land of Oz*** doesn't have Dorothy in it, there will be familiar faces in it. "The Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman return in ***The Marvelous Land of Oz*** and are two of the major characters. Glinda is also back with a much larger part in this story than in the first. The Queen of the Field Mice returns, as do the Soldier with the Green Whiskers, the Guardian of the Gate, and the green girl in the Emerald City whose name is Jellia Jamb."

Joining Shanower on ***The Marvelous Land of Oz*** is artist *Skottie Young*, who also worked with him on ***The Wonderful Wizard of Oz***. Shanower explained how the collaboration works. "I write full scripts and Skottie draws from them. I offer Skottie plenty of suggestions for the way things might look—the way the original Oz book illustrators approached things, the way I've approached things, the way other illustrators have approached things. But I make it clear to Skottie that these are only suggestions. I want to give him a really solid base to build on, but to have him use all his strengths and style and not feel constrained by any other version of Oz.

"And he's doing a terrific job. His vision of Oz is brand new and really vivid, nowhere near a pale copy of anything you've seen before. When I first saw his work for issue #1 of ***Wizard***, I was delighted. I knew it was good, but I had no idea then how many people would agree with me or how immensely popular the comic would turn out to be. Never dreamed we'd be on the ***New York Times*** best seller list. But don't worry—success hasn't spoiled me—or Skottie either. I just saw his pencils for ***Marvelous Land*** issue #2 last week, and they are great, some of the best work he's done yet for Oz!"

Is Young also a fan of Baum's work? "Skottie read and liked a few of the Oz books before this job began, but he's no Oz fanatic. I think we make a great balance—I know the material and can really lay the groundwork. Also, I draw as well as write comics, so I think I'm able to write scripts that give Skottie what he needs but don't constrict him—that's my goal anyway. And it seems to be working—Skottie has a fresh take on it all and really creates some magic. His character designs burst with life. I also have to give credit to *Jean-Francois Beaulieu's* fantastic coloring."

Will Shanower and Marvel adapt all of Baum's novels—and possibly go even further to adapt the continuations of the Oz saga by *Ruth Plumly Thompson*, *John R. Neill*, and others? "Who knows? I'd love to do all the Baum Oz books and a few of his related fantasies. If we get beyond that, then great. I'm willing to run with this for as long as it lasts. How long will that be? Only time will tell."

Should Marvel decide to adapt all fourteen of Baum's Oz books, "I'm here for as long as it lasts," Shanower said. "I didn't think it would last this long, frankly. Skottie seems really happy to be working on it and I can't see leaving the series as long as he's around. Really, it's all in Marvel's court at this point. And as long as Oz keeps selling, I don't see why they'd want to stop it!"

The Marvelous Land of Oz #1, a $3.99 comic, is scheduled to debut this week. Marvel is also offering the book with two limited incentive covers: a 1-for-10 variant featuring cover art by *Ed McGuinness* and a 1-for-20 variant featuring cover art by *Eric Shanower* himself. (Check with the friendly folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop for information about price and availability for these limited variants.)

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

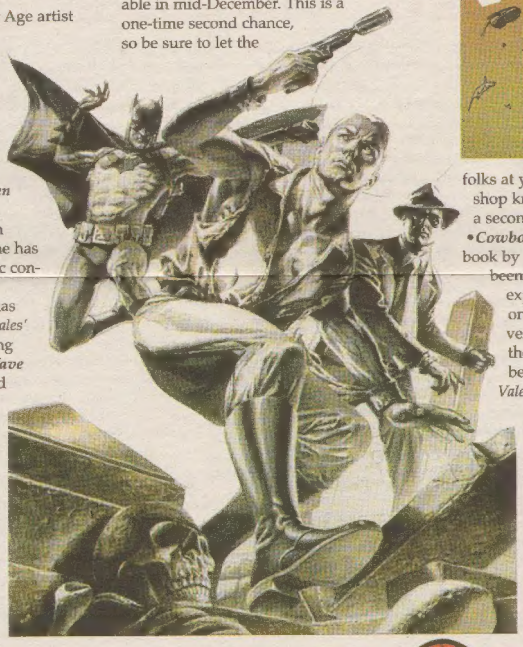
COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

CSNsider

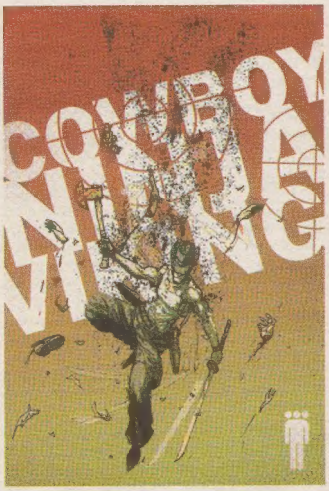
•Legendary Golden and Silver Age artist *George Tuska* died of a heart attack in mid-October at the age of 93. Tuska, whose comic book career began in the early 1940s, is best known for his Silver Age work on such characters Captain America, Iron Man, and Luke Cage; for DC, he worked on such titles as ***Teen Titans*** and ***Justice League of America***. While he retired from comics illustration years ago, he has been a mainstay at many comic conventions.

•In the past few weeks, *CSN* has showed you some of *Rags Morales'* superlative art for the upcoming *Brian Azzarello*-written ***First Wave*** series, a quasi-retro pulp-styled adventure series starring Doc Savage, Batman, the Spirit, and other non-powered heroes. Now sneak a peek at artist *JG Jones'* cover image for ***First Wave #1***. ""I'm just happy to be aboard the ***First Wave*** bus along with the serious talents doing the heavy lifting," Jones said over at DC's The Source (dcu.blog.dccomics.com). "I love the world that Brian has inhabited with these iconic pulp characters, and the artwork by Rags is spot on perfect. Catch the wave; it should be a wild ride!"



•Letterer *Joe Rosen* also passed away in mid-October. The 88-year-old letterer began working in comics at the end of the Golden Age; if you've ever thrilled to *Frank Miller's* run on ***Daredevil*** or the ***Spider-Man/Superman*** crossover, then you've enjoyed Rosen's work. (And if you've ever struggled through a badly-lettered work, you'll certainly appreciate the contributions a great letterer can make to any comic.)

•Did you miss out on the first two ***Cover Girls of the DC Universe Statues***, based on the art of *Adam Hughes*? Well, DC's offering you a chance to make your holiday season brighter: they're making limited quantities of both ***Wonder Woman*** and ***Zatanna*** available in mid-December. This is a one-time second chance, so be sure to let the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop know that you don't want to miss out a second time!



•***Cowboy Ninja Viking***, the quirky duotone book by *AJ Liberman & Riley Rossmo*, has been so well received that the book is expanding form miniseries to regular ongoing series. "In a time where it's very hard to launch an all-new title, the pre-release buzz for this book has been massive," Image VP *Jim Valentino* said. "We're extremely excited to keep it going for a long time coming. Considering we've had to already double our print run to meet demand, we think the fans will highly enjoy the now ongoing series."

•***X-Factor: Overtime Premium HC*** adds the ***X-Factor: Layla Miller*** oneshot to the mix, increasing the pagecount by 32 pages and boosting the price to $24.99.

•*Neil Edwards* is filling in for *Dale Eaglesham* as artist of ***Fantastic Four #573***.

•No, you haven't missed ***Marvels: Eye of the Camera #6***, the finale of the *Kurt Busiek-Jay Anacleto* series. The book has now been rescheduled for mid-January release.

Coming Comics—DC in January

Nine DC books return from the dead for one month in a special ***Blackest Night*** January mini-event. The returning titles include:

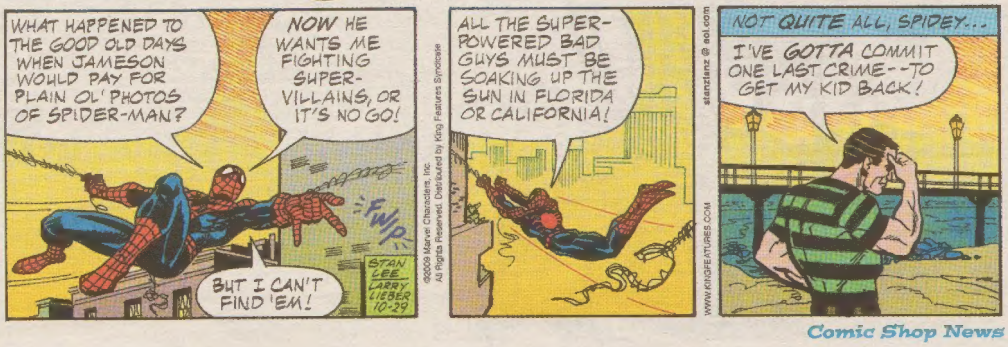
•***The Atom & The Hawkman #46*** by *Geoff Johns & Ryan Sook*, which finds the Atom hunted by not only the Black Lanterns Hawkman and Hawkgirl, but Black Lanterns Khufu and Chay-Ara!

•***Catwoman #83*** by *Fabian Nicieza, Julian Lopez, & Bit*, which pits Catwoman against a dead villain that she was responsible for killing – the original Black Mask!

•***The Phantom Stranger #42*** by *Peter J. Tomasi, Ardian Syaf, & Vicente Cifuentes*, which pits the Phantom Stranger—along with Blue Devil and Deadman—against the Black Lantern Spectre.

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER


WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GOOD OLD DAYS WHEN JAMESON WOULD PAY FOR PLAIN OL' PHOTOS OF SPIDER-MAN?
NOW HE WANTS ME FIGHTING SUPER-VILLAINS, OR IT'S NO GO!
FWIP
BUT I CAN'T FIND 'EM!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-29
ALL THE SUPER-POWERED BAD GUYS MUST BE SOAKING UP THE SUN IN FLORIDA OR CALIFORNIA!
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WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM
NOT QUITE ALL, SPIDEY...
I'VE GOTTA COMMIT ONE LAST CRIME--TO GET MY KID BACK!

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•***The Power of Shazam #48*** by *Eric Wallace, Don Kramer, Michael Babinski*, which brings Osiris back from the dead to terrorize a young Billy and Mary Batson.

•***The Question #37*** by *Greg Rucka, Denys Cowan, & Bill Sienkiewicz*, which finds Renee Montoya targeted by Black Lantern Vic Sage, the former Question.

•***Starman #81*** by *James Robinson, Fernando Dagnino, & Bill Sienkiewicz*, which features a Black Lantern Starman haunting Opal City... but which Starman is it?

•***Suicide Squad #67*** and ***Secret Six #17***, a crossover two-parter by *John Ostrander, Gail Simone, & J. Calafiore*, a two-parter that pits the Suicide Squad against the Secret Six.

•***Weird Western Tales #71*** by *Dan DiDio & Renato Arlem*, which finds Western heroes Jonah Hex, Bat Lash, Scalphunter, & Firehair rising from the dead as Black Lanterns.

Geoff Johns & Francis Manapul say goodbye (for now) to Superboy with the spectacular 30-page ***Adventure Comics #6.*** Ever since Superboy returned from the grave, he has been obsessed with Lex Luthor, believing that there must be some good in the master villain somewhere. So for Luthor, it's time to put up or shut up. With Superman off planet, it's time to do some good for the planet earth. Superboy is willing to do what it takes to make Lex's dreams come true—but what Superboy will discover is that one man's dreams are another man's nightmares.

The unthinkable happens when Batman and the Penguin join forces to thwart the mass murder and mayhem of their common foe, the Black Mask, in ***Batman #695*** by *Tony Daniel & Sandu Florea.* Plus, Batman confronts an adversary from days past who has a score to settle with The Dark Knight.

Knight, Squire, and Batwoman guest-star in ***Batman & Robin #7***, the first installment of "Blackest Night," a three-part story arc by *Grant Morrison & Cameron Stewart* that offers additional clues on the Domino Killer and the details surrounding the "death" of Bruce Wayne.

Sam Kieth is both writer and artist of a four-part storyline that begins in ***Batman Confidential #40.*** There's a new killer prowling Gotham City preying on the homeless. Batman has his suspicions... but is his normally rational mind playing tricks on him?

The Joker versus... the Atom? That's just the match-up that readers will find in ***The Brave & the Bold #31*** by *J. Michael Straczynski & Jesus Saiz.*

Batwoman and Batman join forces in ***Detective Comics #861*** for a case that involves the a series of grisly mutilations and murders. But what does this case have to do with the kidnapping of a socialite from ten years ago, and what evidence can The Dark Knight himself bring to light on this macabre mystery? Guest artist *Jock* joins writer *Greg Rucka* for this arc.

The Flashes find themselves more tangled into Nekron's ultimate plan than they could ever have imagined. Meanwhile, it's a well-known fact that Captain Cold hates running. But when the Rogues of the past rise to claim those that still survive, he has no choice—as you'll see in ***Blackest Night: The Flash #2*** by *Geoff Johns & Scott Kolins.*

Black Lantern Lois Lane tracks down her undead husband, but their reunion could mean Power Girl's funeral! Don't miss ***Blackest Night: JSA #2,*** a terrifying tie-in from *James Robinson & Eddy Barrows.*

Diana faces her greatest challenge in ***Blackest Night: Wonder Woman #2*** by *Greg Rucka & Nicola Scott.* Death has always walked with her, but who will guide her into the light – her mother, her sister or her lover? Don't miss this mind-blowing tie-in as Wonder Woman's life changes forever!

Surrounded by friends and enemies, Hal Jordan goes into battle with a being he will never defeat – the Black Lantern Spectre! Can Saint Walker, Sinestro and the others put a stop to this bizarre Spectre rebirth? Find out in *Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy's* ***Green Lantern #50,*** a 40-page ***Blackest Night*** tie-in.

Witness the fury of Guy Gardner – Red Lantern! But what horrible attack on the Corps would fuel Guy's rage? And how can anyone save him from the grip of the crimson fury? Find out in ***Green Lantern Corps #44,*** a ***Blackest Night*** tie-in by *Peter Tomasi, Patrick Gleason, & Rebecca Buchman.*

James Robinson, Mark Bagley, & Rob Hunter begin a new era for the JLA in ***Justice League of America #41*** as the team regroups with a new roster that includes Batman, Green Lantern, the Atom, Green Arrow, Donna Troy, the Guardian, Cyborg, Mon-El, Starfire, Dr. Light and, yes, Congorilla!

It's all-out war as the leaner, meaner Justice Society of America confront another intruder in their midst in ***Justice Society of America #35*** by *Bill Willingham, Travis Moore, & Dan Green.* But this time it's bad news for their enemy, as he's facing a team that has learned from its past mistakes!

In "Constellations," part 1, The All-Stars have survived their first major battle—but in the aftermath, one team member is missing without a trace. The mysterious Strike Force has that member captive, but there's someone else who wants the missing All-Star even worse than Strike Force does. Find out what this is in ***JSA All-Stars #2*** by *Matthew Sturges & Freddie Williams II.*

After the horrifying events of ***Blackest Night,*** Katana and Black Lightning are dispatched to deal with a terrifying disturbance on the open seas in ***Outsiders #26,*** the first issue produced by the new creative team of *Dan DiDio, Philip Tan, & Jonathan Glapion.* Meanwhile, Geo-Force is recalled to Markovia to handle affairs of state. But when Prince Brion makes a deal with a certain Kryptonian to join the team, the Outsiders find themselves cast as enemies in the eyes of the world!

Lana Lang... dead? That's apparently the case—but we'll all find out for sure in January, when *Sterling Gates & Matt Camp* deliver ***Supergirl #49,*** the book that reveals all!

Superman and Batman confront a shape-changing villain with a thousand-year-old grudge against Krypton in ***Superman/Batman #68*** by *Joe Casey, Ardian Syaf, & Vicente Cifuentes.*

JT Krul, Angel Unzueta, & Wayne Faucher present part 1 of the 2-part "Fractured" in ***Titans #21,*** with Dick back in Gotham City and Gar and Raven returning to the West Coast. As the team continues to fall apart, the remaining members struggle to put the pieces back together. But the future of the Titans might be out of their control altogether.

The Toyman and Mr. Freeze activate the ultimate weapon — the new and improved Composite Superman-Batman robot — in an attempt to destroy all Kryptonians. This looks like a job for the World's Finest, as Superman returns from New Krypton to team up with Dick Grayson Batman to stop the rampaging robot once and for all in ***World's Finest #4*** by *Sterling Gates & Phil Noto.*

DC collected editions include:

•***All-Star Superman Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***All-Star Superman #s 7-12.***

•***Batman Chronicles Volume 9 TP,*** collecting Batman tales from ***Batman #s 16 & 17, Detective Comics #s 75-77,*** and ***World's Finest #10.***

•***Batman: King Tut's Tomb TP,*** collecting ***Batman Confidential #s 26-28,*** along with stories from ***Brave & Bold #s 164 & 171*** and ***Batman #353.***

•***The Brave & the Bold: Milestone TP,*** collecting ***B&B #s 24-26*** plus stories from ***Hardware #16, Static #12, & Xombi #6.***

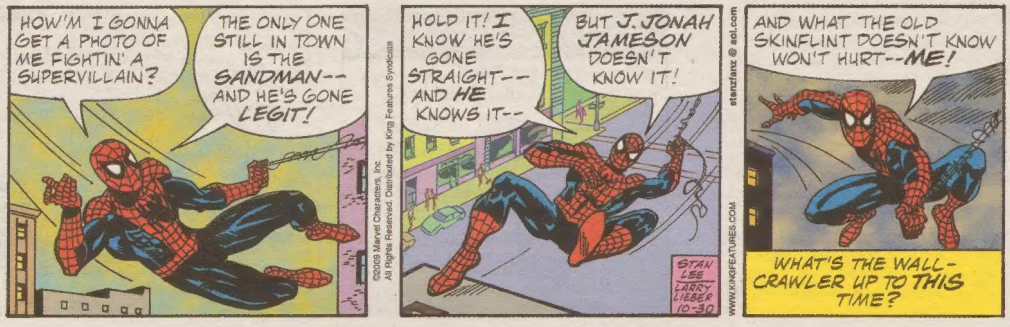
•***DC Universe Origins TP,*** collecting the origin backup tales from 52 and ***Countdown to Final Crisis,*** along with some pieces first seen online.

•***Hitman Volume 2: 10,000 Bullets TP,*** collecting ***Hitman #s 4-8 & Annual #1.***

•***Justice League of America Special #1,*** collecting 48 pages of JLA tales by *Brad Meltzer, Mark Waid & Brian Azzarello.*

•***Final Crisis Aftermath: Dance TP,*** collecting the six-issue miniseries.

•***Final Crisis Aftermath: Run TP,*** collecting the six-issue miniseries.


HOW'M I GONNA GET A PHOTO OF ME FIGHTIN' A SUPERVILLAIN?
THE ONLY ONE STILL IN TOWN IS THE SANDMAN-- AND HE'S GONE LEGIT!
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HOLD IT! I KNOW HE'S GONE STRAIGHT-- AND HE KNOWS IT--
BUT J. JONAH JAMESON DOESN'T KNOW IT!
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AND WHAT THE OLD SKINFLINT DOESN'T KNOW WON'T HURT--ME!
WHAT'S THE WALL-CRAWLER UP TO THIS TIME?

•***Green Lantern: Secret Origin TP,*** collecting ***Green Lantern #s 29-35.***
•***Kobra; Resurrection TP,*** collecting ***Kobra #1, DC Special Series #1, Checkmate #s 23-25, & Kobra: Faces of Evil #1.***
•***The Newsboy Legion by Joe Simon & Jack Kirby Volume 1 HC,*** collecting classic Golden Age tales from ***Star Spangled Comics #s 7-32.***
•***Showcase Presents Secrets of Sinister House TP,*** a 496-page black and white trade paperback collecting ***The Sinister House of Secret Love #s 1-4*** and ***The Secrets of Sinister House #s 5-18,*** DC's gothic suspense series from the early 1970s.
•***Superman: New Krypton Volume 3 HC,*** collecting ***Superman: World of New Krypton #s 1-5*** and ***Action Comics Annual #10.***
•***Superman: Nightwing & Flamebird Volume 1 HC,*** collecting ***Action Comics #s 875-879 & Annual #12.***
•***Tiny Titans: Sidekickin' It Up TP,*** collecting ***Tiny Titans #s 13-18.***
•***Wonder Woman Archives Volume Six HC,*** collecting stories from ***Sensation Comics #s 41-48*** and ***Wonder Woman #s 13-15.***

Coming Comics—WildStorm/DC in January

Mar Bernardin, Adam Freeman, & Al Barrionuevo launch a new chapter in the saga of the Wildstormverse's premiere superteam in ***The Authority #18.*** It begins when a bolt from the deepest reaches of space gives the Carrier a new lease on life. Now the heroes of the WildStorm Universe must decide whether they should abandon the seemingly hopeless Earth or stay behind and fight for its survival. This issue features a cover by *George Pérez* that links with his cover art for ***Wildcats #19*** to form a blockbuster image featuring the big guns of the WildStorm Universe.

In *Adam Beechen, Tim Seeley, & Ryan Wynn's* ***Wildcats #19,*** the Carrier leaves UnLondon, taking some of Earth's most powerful defenders with it. Can the heroes who remain help the planet survive not one, but *two* alien invasions?

Supernatural: Beginning's End #1, an expansion of the CW's hit television series, picks up several years after the events of the ***Rising Son*** miniseries as the Winchester clan find themselves in the strangest situation imaginable – monster hunting in the Big Apple! This tale by television series writers *Andrew Dabb & Daniel Loflin* reveals the events that led to Sam leaving his family to attend Stanford,

Doug Wagner & Pop Mhan launch a new series focusing on the Horde in the appropriately entitled ***World of Warcraft: Horde #1.*** The orc Malgar is content to hunt alone with his wolf Remnes. When a band of raiding Kolkar Clan centaurs lay waste to a small orc farm, he has no choice but to return to the violent life he left behind. Aided by a new ally known as Ironhoof, Malgar succeeds in defending the farm – but at great cost.

WildStorm collected editions include:
•***The Authority: Rule Brittania TP,*** collecting ***The Authority #s 8-16.***
•***Planetary Volume 4 HC,*** collecting ***Planetary #s 19-27.***
•***Resistance TP,*** collecting ***Resistance #s 0-6.***

Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in January

Peter Milligan & James Romberger present an urban mystery filled with family secrets in ***The Bronx Kill HC.*** When his wife goes missing, Martin Keane is forced to delve into his family's secrets.

PORTRAIT OF A MAN IN TORMENT...
BIGSHOT WON'T HARM MY LITTLE GIRL...
...AS LONG AS I HELP HIM PULL OFF A ROBBERY.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-31
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It's a path that will lead him back to the Bronx Kill—that lonely, godforsaken stretch of land where many years earlier his grandfather had been brutally murdered, and where finally he will learn the truth about his wife's disappearance.

Having an overactive imagination can get a kid through a lot, but it doesn't change the facts: Joe's still the kid in school that can't fit in. He's the victim of bullies. His dad died overseas in the Iraq war. And then there's the Type 1 diabetes he has to live with.So is it insulin-deprived delirium or something much, much bigger that transports Joe to a land inhabited by all his toys – from ninja commandos to action robots to magical knights to star fleet captains? Is Joe really the savior of this wild fantasyland that's been held under siege by dark magic and evil forces? With the help of a samurai rodent, is he ready to take back besieged castles and win the freedom of an oppressed people? Or is he just an over imaginative boy who could die if he doesn't take his meds? Find out in ***Joe the Barbarian,*** a surreal fantasy adventure eight-part series produced by *Grant Morrison & Sean Murphy.*

Vertigo collected editions include:
•***Fables Volume 13: The Great Fables Crossover TP,*** collecting ***Fables #s 83-85, Jack of Fables #s 33-35, & The Literals #s 1-3.***
•***The Losers Volume 1 & 2 TP,*** a single 304-page volume collecting the first twelve issues of the *Andy Diggle-Jock-Shawn Martinbrough* series.
•***Madame Xanadu Volume 2: Exodus Noir TP,*** collecting the *Matt Wagner-Michael Wm Kaluta* arc from ***Madame Xanadu #s 11-15.***

Coming in June 2010 from DC Direct

DC Direct's ***Cover Girls of the DC Universe*** series continues with the ***Harley Quinn Statue Designed by Adam Hughes,*** a *Jack Mathews* sculpt. Harley is posed wearing her trademark harlequin outfit and is holding an oversized mallet. And she is the perfect companion to the next statue in the series, Poison Ivy!

One of the most famous belts in comics history can be yours! ***The JLA Trophy Room: Batman (Modern) Utility Belt Prop Replica*** is made of faux-leather and includes eight pouches with real, working high-gloss gold snaps with Batman logo emblems as well as a real, working gold-plated metal buckle with a Batman logo emblem. In addition to a Certificate of Authenticity, a metal display

shelf on which the belt can be mounted is included, along with mounting hardware.

The Detective Comics Box Set, a five-figure set, combines classic figures of Batman, Robin, Batgirl, the Riddler, and Bat-Mite with a 64-page original collection of classic tales, all at an affordable price.

Blackest Night can brighten up your home when you add the ***Sinestro Corps Mini Neon Sign*** to your lighting decor. The adjustable base unit can sit on a tabletop or be mounted to a wall.

The ring worn by the exclusive Honor Gurad of the Green Lantern Corps can be yours, thanks to DC Direct's ***Green Lantern Honor Guard Ring Prop Replica.*** Cast in silver metal with a green enamel inlay, the ring also features decorative ridges around the band. The ring comes packaged in a two-part box foil-stamped with the Green Lantern logo and with protective foam inside.

John Stewart & Guy Gardner are the stars of the ***Green Lantern Legacies Multi-Part Statue Part 3.*** This statue complements Part 1, featuring Hal Jordan and both classic and modern versions of the Guardians of the Universe, and Part 2, featuring Kyle Rayner and an original Manhunter robot. The bases of each piece slide together to form a Lantern-shaped base, on which all of the characters stand. Each of the three parts includes a piece of the fourth portion of the statue, which can be easily assembled to form Alan Scott, who rises up from the center of the piece.

DC Direct's ***History of the DC Universe Action Figures Based on the Art of George Pérez*** continues in June with ***Series 4,*** featuring ***The Silver Age Martian Manhunter, Captain Atom*** (in his original blue and red costume), ***Kobra*** (in his original costume), and ***Superman as Nightwing*** (from Superman's time in the bottle city of Kandor, where he took on the alias of Nightwing).

New Teen Titans member Raven is the latest character to join the popular ***Women of the DC Universe Bust*** series! The ***Raven Bust,*** based on the art of *Amanda Conner,* has a base identical to that of fellow Teen Titan Wonder Girl from ***Women of the DC Universe Series 2.***

Warcraft fans can add some real loot to their collection with the ***World of Warcraft Horde Collectible Coin Set.*** All three coins

BUT I DON'T WANNA DO IT!
DON'T WANT TO DO WHAT, MARKO?
SMASH
OR SHOULD I ADDRESS YOU MORE FORMALLY-- AS SANDMAN?
YOU?
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atansfanz @ aol.com

included in this special World of Warcraft collectible set are plated in precious metals, and each coin features a Major Horde Leader on one side and the leader's corresponding city on the opposite side. The 24 karat gold-plated coin features the Orc Warchief: Thrall of Orgrimmar and measures approximately 1.625" in diameter. The sterling silver-plated coin features the Forsaken Queen: Lady Sylvanas Windrunner of Undercity and measures approximately 1.375" in diameter. And the copper-plated coin features the Tauren High Chieftain: Cairne Bloodhoof of Thunder Bluff and measures approximately 1.25" in diameter. All coins are approximately 0.125" thick and are removable from the box. A non-removable commemorative metal plaque with the Horde emblem is also included.

And if the Horde isn't to your liking, then you can go for the ***World of Warcraft Alliance Collectible Coin Set,*** equally eye-catching and identically packaged. The 24 karat gold-plated coin features the Human Military Leader of the Alliance: King Varian Wrynn of Stormwind and measures approximately 1.625" in diameter. The sterling silver-plated coin features the Dwarven King: Magni Bronzebeard of Iron Forge and measures approximately 1.375" in diameter. The copper-plated coin features the Night Elf High Priestess: Tyrande Whisperwind of Silvermoon and measures approximately 1.25" in diameter.

Coming Comics: Marvel in January

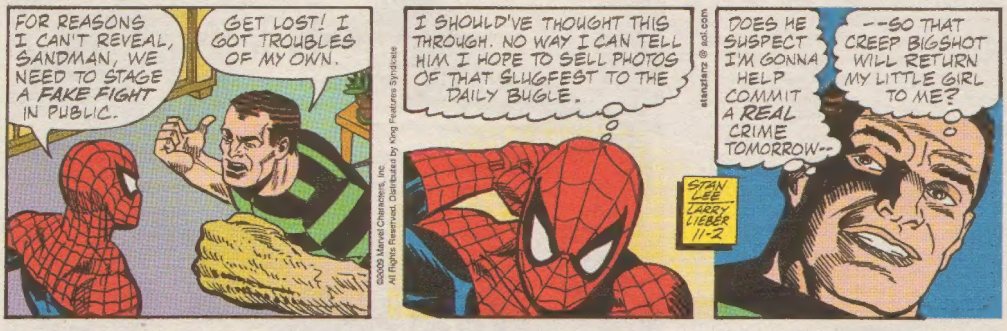
"The Gauntlet" continues to make life difficult for Peter Parker as he confronts some of his oldest and most malevolent adversaries. In ***Amazing Spider-Man #617,*** *Joe Kelly & Max Fiumara* pit Spidey against the Rhino; then, in #618, *Dan Slott & Marcos Martin* bring Mysterio back from the dead... and he's not alone, as he's accompanied by deceased members of the Maggia crime family.

The last Jackpot died in combat alongside Spider-Man – so who is the New Jackpot putting fear into the hearts of street criminals? Why has Boomerang targeted her for death? And how is The Rose involved? Find out in ***Amazing Spider-Man Presents Jackpot,*** a three-parter by *Marc Guggenheim & David Yardin.*

After Civil War, the members of the Initiative were recruited with promises of glory...fame...wealth...redemption. But all things come with a price — and now it's time to pay in blood as the entire Initiative find themselves fighting for their lives in an all-out war against Thor and the Asgardians in ***Avengers: The Initiative #32*** by *Christos Gage & Rafa Sandoval,* a ***Siege*** tie-in.

Spacetime is being selectively eroded by an unknown force. To stop the effect, the Agents of Atlas seek the help of the Avengers- and find a much earlier version of the team than they expected: Captain America, Iron Man, Wasp, Giant-Man and Thor are together again, with the atomic wildcard the Hulk, in ***Avengers Vs. Atlas,*** a four-part series by *Jeff Parker & Gabriel Hardman.*

There's a major X-Men event coming up in 2010—and you can get the first clues about it in ***Cable #22*** by *Duane Swierczynski & Gabriel Guzman.* Now that Hope's told Cable that she's ready to join the X-Men in the present, Cable risks it all to repair his busted time machine. Finally, after years of being stuck in a one-way trip to oblivion, Cable and Hope leap into the past. But the Mutant Messiah and her surrogate father miss the mark by more than a few hundred


FOR REASONS I CAN'T REVEAL, SANDMAN, WE NEED TO STAGE A FAKE FIGHT IN PUBLIC.
GET LOST! I GOT TROUBLES OF MY OWN.
I SHOULD'VE THOUGHT THIS THROUGH. NO WAY I CAN TELL HIM I HOPE TO SELL PHOTOS OF THAT SLUGFEST TO THE DAILY BUGLE.
DOES HE SUSPECT I'M GONNA HELP COMMIT A REAL CRIME TOMORROW--
--SO THAT CREEP BIGSHOT WILL RETURN MY LITTLE GIRL TO ME?
STAN LEE JERRY LIEBER 11-2
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PREVIEWS

One Catalog. TONS of Cool Stuff.

From comic books to action figures, games to DVDs, there's something for everyone in the November issue of *PREVIEWS*!

ON THE COVER ...

MASS EFFECT: REDEMPTION #1—*Mass Effect 2,* the sequel to the epic Xbox 360 game, begins with the disappearance of Commander Shepard. The story of what happens next — exclusive to this mini-series — will have the commander's companion Dr. Liara T'Soni undertake a deadly mission of extraordinary importance!

OUTSIDERS #26—An all-new adventure begins as Eisner Award-winning writer Bill Willingham (*Fables*) takes Angel down some pretty twisted roads as the group's (and its leader's) fame starts causing tension and testing loyalties.

380+ pages of cool stuff that starts shipping in January!

CHECK OUT THESE OFFERINGS:

Aliens vs. Predator: Three World War #1—Randy Stradley and Rick Leonardi mine the history of Dark Horse's *Aliens* and *Predator* series, bringing back heroine and hunter, Machiko Noguchi, for a Predator civil war, with Earth as the battlefield and trained Aliens as the WMDs!

Green Lantern #50—As the *Blackest Night* spreads across the DCU, Hal Jordan faces a being he cannot possibly hope to defeat — the Black Lantern *Spectre* — in this oversized anniversary issue from Geoff Johns and Doug Mahnke!

The Darkness: Shadows & Flame One-Shot—Rob Levin and Jorge Luca take us back to the turn of the 20th Century for a tale of The Darkness: a tale of lost love, the depravity of man, and powers beyond our understanding, told in the tradition of H.P. Lovecraft!

Hulk #19—This is it! *The Fall of The Hulks* begins here! And the superstar team of Jeph Loeb and Ed McGuinness fire off the first salvo with the new Frightful Four's attack on the Baxter Building... and a major dust-up with the Red Hulk and The Thing!

AND BE SURE NOT TO MISS:

- **Cover Girls of the DCU: Harley Quinn Statue** from DC Direct!
- **Marvel Select: Iron Man 2 Movie Action Figure** from DST!
- **LOST Seasons 1-5 Cards** in the Trading Cards Section!
- **X-Men Origins: Wolverine Prop Jacket** in the Apparel Section!
- **World of Warcraft: Tankard o' Terror Stein** in Collectibles & Novelties!
- And Much, Much More!

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newaccounts@diamondcomics.com

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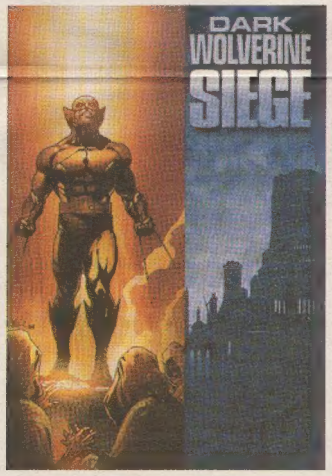
years, finding themselves in a primitive Manhattan – and hunted by a mutant who just doesn't know the meaning of the word "quit."

The sixth issue of the five-part ***Captain America Reborn*** arc is slated to ship in January... and yes, the five-parter by *Ed Brubaker & Bryan Hitch* has indeed grown into a six-part tale. The fight for the body, soul, and mind of Steve Roger comes to a climactic conclusion as the Avengers take on the Red Skull.

As ***Captain America Reborn*** wraps up, the ongoing ***Captain America*** returns to the Marvel schedule in January with the long-awaited #602. *Ed Brubaker & Luke Ross* reveal where the Captain America from the '50s has been the past few months, and what part of our modern world has welcomed him. And what will Steve and Bucky do when an old enemy tries to become a revolutionary?

In the distant town of Addio-Colonello, Nosferatu launches his assault, commanding his legion of vampires to attack—and that means that it's up to Daffodil, Globuline and Achilles, three beautiful agents of the very same Vampire Parliament, to apprehend Nosferatu and uncover the motive for his crime. See how they do it in the three-issue ***Daffodil*** series by *Bremaud & Rigano.*

After years of mystery, the secrets of the Sentry are revealed! How deep is his madness and who is really in control of him? What is the limit of his power, if any? *Brian Bendis & Mike Deodato Jr.* answer all these questions and more in ***Dark Avengers #13***, a ***Siege*** tie-in.

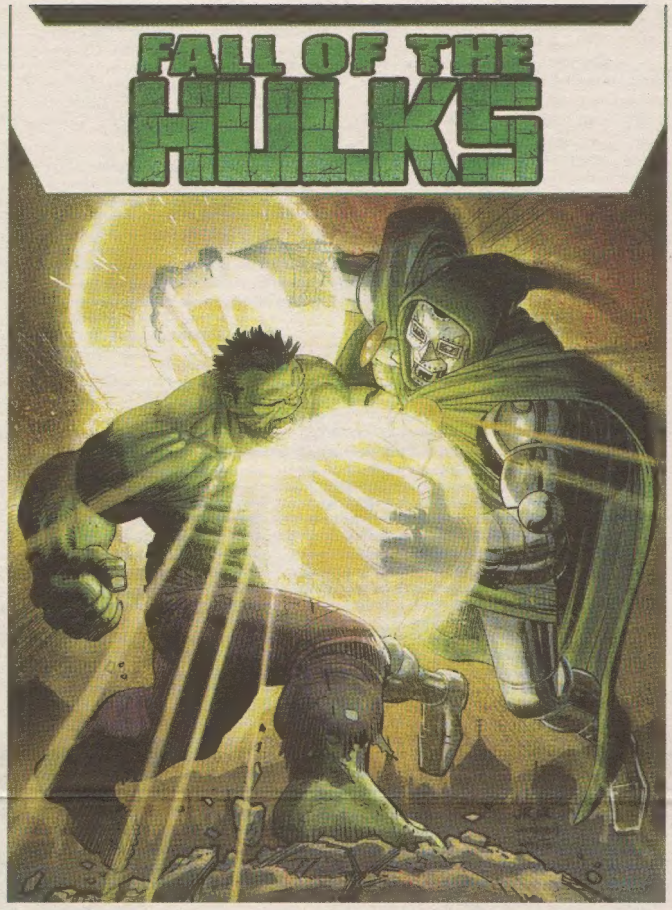


While he is counted among the greatest gathering of villains the Marvel Universe has ever seen, one question remains: whose side is Daken really on? That will be revealed in ***Dark Wolverine #82***, a ***Siege*** tie-in by *Marjorie Liu, Daniel Way, & Giuseppi Camuncoli.*

What secrets will be revealed in ***Fall of the Hulks?*** What secret plans has the Red Hulk been hiding? And what does all of this have to do with the Cosmic Hulk robot? Find out in ***Fall of the Hulks: Red Hulk #1*** by *Jeff Parker & Carlos Rodrigues.*

The Mole Man returns in ***Fantastic Four #575*** by *Jonathan Hickman & Dale Eaglesham*, part one of the "Prime Elements" arc.

The Red Hulk takes on the Thing in ***Hulk #19*** by *Jeph Loeb & Ed McGuinness*, a ***Fall of the Hulks*** tie-in.



As ***Fall of the Hulks*** begins, eventful revelations can be found in ***Incredible Hulk #606*** by *Greg Pak & Paul Pelletier.* Bruce Banner makes the best and worst discovery of his life, Skaar, the savage Son of Hulk, finally shows his true colors, and a Green Goliath in purple pants takes on Doctor Doom himself!

The heart and soul of the Marvel Universe gathered to bring Tony back online…but when they flipped the switch, nothing happened. What do you do when the smartest man in the world is trapped inside his own subconscious? Doctor Donald Blake reaches out for a specialist…Doctor Strange! And meanwhile…the Ghost closes in, ready to assassinate Tony Stark once and for all in ***Invincible Iron Man #22*** by *Matt Fraction & Salvador Larroca.*

Peter David & Sean Chen launch the two-part ***Iron Man: I Am Iron Man,*** an adaptation of the blockbuster first film, just in time for the release of ***Iron Man 2.***

A young man travels billions of miles through space in a rocket to help our world. But is Earth of the 1950's ready for a new super hero? Before he became the dark figure the Agents of Atlas call The Uranian, Bob Grayson raced through the skies as Marvel Boy—and you can see his earliest exploits in ***Marvel Boy: The Uranian,*** a new three-parter by *Jeff Parker & Felix Ruiz.*

Ms Marvel takes on Captain Marvel in ***Ms. Marvel #49*** by *Brian Reed & Sana Takeda.*

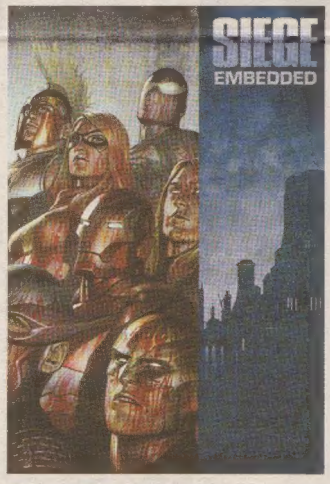
Jubilee returns to the X-Men, Gambit has trouble adjusting to life on Utopia, Northstar deals with the distance that island living necessitates and No-Girl has to save all the X-Men from a foe living right under their noses in ***Nation X #2.***

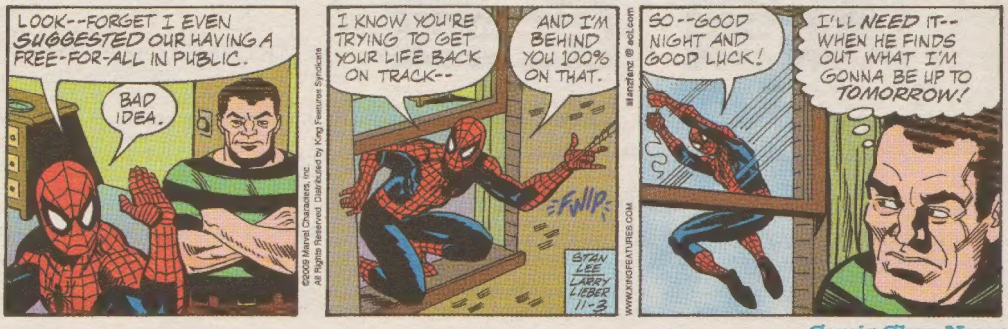
Utopia—the sanctuary for mutants to escape a world that wants them extinct. So is it the ideal home for X-Factor? That's what Cyclops believes when he invites the world's only mutant detective agency to relocate to their floating island retreat and take up residence there. But will Madrox and his team believe that it's the best place for them? Find out in ***Nation X: X-Factor*** by *Peter David & Valentine DeLandro.*

Steve Rogers makes his triumphant return to the Avengers—but is he too late? With the Siege on Asgard begun, he must act swiftly... but who can he turn to and trust in a world with Norman Osborn in charge? Find out in ***New Avengers #50*** by *Brian Bendis & Stuart Immonen*, a ***Siege*** tie-in.

Marvel's greatest villains have risen to a position of power, while its most selfless heroes have fallen out of favor. Now, in a final bid to take total control, Norman Osborn targets the final obstacle in his mission: Asgard. See what he plans to do about it in ***Siege #1,*** the kickoff issue of a four-parter by *Brian Bendis & Olivier Coipel.*

The Siege of Asgard continues in ***Siege: Embedded #1*** by *Brian Reed & Chris Samnee.* Osborn's savvy use of the media fueled his rise to power—but the very tools he's been using may turn against him. It's time to expose Norman's true face to the world and uncover the secrets behind the attack on the gods!




LOOK--FORGET I EVEN SUGGESTED OUR HAVING A FREE-FOR-ALL IN PUBLIC.
BAD IDEA.
I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO GET YOUR LIFE BACK ON TRACK--
AND I'M BEHIND YOU 100% ON THAT.
FWIP!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 11-3
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SO--GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD LUCK!
I'LL NEED IT--WHEN HE FINDS OUT WHAT I'M GONNA BE UP TO TOMORROW!
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM

Wanna know all about the major players in the *Siege* story arc? Then ***Siege: Storming Asgard—Heroes and Villains*** is the book for you. Who are the featured players in the saga, how did we get here, and what are the many contingencies in this operation? With insider character bios and commentary from the creators behind the Dark Siege, this will make essential reading for kicking off the event in style!

Todd Dezago & Mitch Schauer launch a new ***Super Hero Squad*** series based on the hit cartoon—and readers will be able to enjoy two short stories in each issue.

Who is the face of true evil in the Ultimate Universe? What is the biggest secret the world doesn't know? Find out in ***Ultimate Comics Enemy***, a four-part series by *Brian Bendis & Rafa Sandoval*.

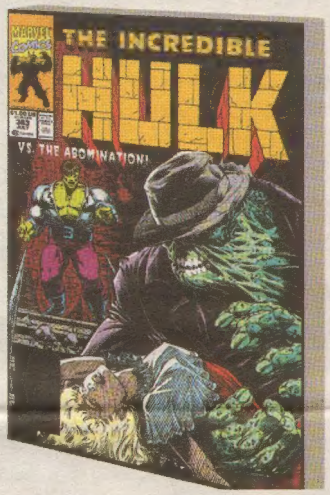
There's a rogue Predator X stalking mutants beneath New York City, and it's up to Wolverine and Fantomex to hunt it down in ***Uncanny X-Men #520*** by *Matt Fraction & Greg Land*. Meanwhile, there's an island in the San Francisco Bay that the mutants call home and it's slowly sinking -- and only King Namor can save the day.

Wolverine rescues a camera crew from an attack by a ferocious white-furred monster in ***Wolverine: Wendigo*** by *Frank Tieri & Paul Gulacy*, a oneshot that also features a "Wolverine Vs. Thor" backup.

The ***X-Men Origins*** series continues with a *Stuart Moore-Jesse Delperdang* tale spotlighting Scott Summers. ***X-Men Origins: Cyclops*** follows the origin of the X-Men's leader from his childhood through his joining of the X-Men with both classic moments and a few previously-unseen events.

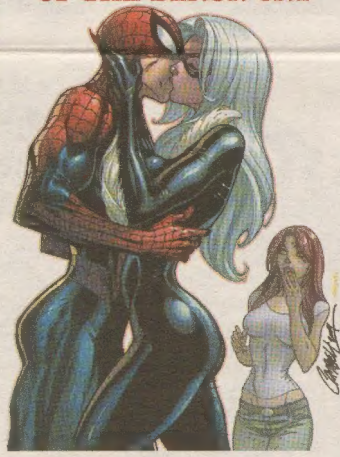
Marvel collected volumes include:

- ***Agents of Atlas: Turf Wars Premiere HC***, collecting ***Agents of Atlas #s 6-11.***
- ***Alias Ultimate Collection Book 2 TP***, collecting ***Alias #s 16-28.***
- ***Avengers: World Trust Premiere HC***, collecting ***Avengers (1998) #s 57-61.***
- ***Cable Volume 3: Stranded Premiere HC***, collecting ***Cable #s 16-20.***
- ***Captain America: Road to Reborn TP***, collecting ***Captain America #s 49-50 & 600-601.***
- ***Daredevil: Born Again TP***, collecting ***Daredevil #s 226-233.***
- ***Dark Tower: The fall of Gilead Premiere HC***, collecting the six-issue miniseries and the ***Sorcerer*** oneshot.
- ***Deadpool Volume 3: X Marks the Spot Premiere HC***, collecting ***Deadpool #s 13-18.***
- ***Essential Avengers Volume 7 TP***, collecting ***Avengers #s 141-163, Annual #6***, and ***Super Villain Team-Up #9.***
- ***Excalibur Visionaries: Alan Davis Volume 2 TP***, collecting ***Excalibur (1988) #s 51-58*** and the ***XX Crossing*** oneshot.
- ***House of M: Wolverine, Iron Man, & Hulk HC***, collecting ***House of M*** tie-in tales from ***Wolverine #s 33-35, Iron Man: House of M #s 1-3, Incredible Hulk #s 83-87, Captain America #10, Pulse #10, Cable & Deadpool #17***, and ***Hulk: Broken Worlds #1.***
- ***Hulk: Road to Fall of the Hulks TP***, collecting 232 pages of Hulk tales from ***Hulk, Skaar, Amazing Fantasy, Incredible Hulk***, and more.
- ***Hulk: Son of Hulk—Dark Son Rising HC***, collecting ***Skaar #s 13-17.***



- ***Hulk Visionaries: Peter David Volume 7 TP***, collecting ***Incredible Hulk (1968) #s 383-389 & Annual #17.***
- ***The Invincible Iron Man Omnibus Volume 2 HC***, collecting Iron Man tales from ***Tales of Suspense #s 84-99, Iron Man & Sub-Mariner #1***, and ***Iron Man #s 1-25.***
- ***Iron Man & the Armor Wars GN***, a small-sized collection of ***Iron Man & Armor Wars #s 1-4*** with a bonus tale from ***Iron Man #225.***
- ***Iron Man: Deadly Solutions Premiere HC***, collecting ***Iron Man (1998) #s 1-7.***
- ***The List HC***, collecting eight ***Dark Reign: The List*** oneshots.
- ***Marvel Adventures Spider-Man & The Avengers Digest***, collecting ***Marvel Adventures Super Heroes #s 13-16.***
- ***Marvel Divas TP***, collecting the four-issue miniseries.
- ***Marvel Fairy Tales GN***, a teensy trade paperback collecting ***Avengers Fairy Tales #1-4, X-Men Fairy Tales #1***, and ***Spider-Man Fairy Tales #2.***
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Fantastic Four Volume 3 TP***, collecting ***FF #s 21-30.***
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Inhumans Volume 2 HC***, collecting Inhumans tales from ***The Inhumans #s 1-12, Captain Marvel #52-53***, and tales from ***What If? #s 29-30*** and ***Thor Annual #12.***
- ***New Avengers Volume 4 HC***, collecting ***New Avengers #s 32-37, Annual #2***, and ***Illuminati #s 1-5.***
- ***The Odyssey GN***, a compact compilation of the eight-issue classic adaptation.
- ***Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe A to Z Volume 12 Premiere HC***, covering characters from T to W.
- ***Runaways: Escape to New York Premiere HC***, collecting ***Runaways (2005) #s 7-12.***
- ***Secret Warriors Volume 2: God of Fear Premiere HC***, collecting ***Secret Warriors #s 7-10*** and ***Dark Reign: The List—Secret Warriors.***
- ***Siege: Road to Siege TP***, collecting 264 pages of tales paving the way for Marvel's big 2010 event.
- ***Spider-Man: Election Day TP***, collecting ***Amazing SpiderMan #s 583-588*** & more.
- ***Spider-Man: Return of the Black Cat Premiere HC***, collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 606-611*** and material from ***Web of Spider-Man #1.***
- ***Star Comics: All Star Collection Volume 2 GN***, a small-sized collection of various short-lived Star Comics from the 1990s.

SPIDER-MAN: RETURN OF THE BLACK CAT



- ***Thor by J. Michael Straczynski Volume 3 Premiere HC***, collecting ***Thor #s 601-603 & Giant Size Finale.***
- ***Ultimate Spider-Man Volume 22: Ultimatum TP***, collecting ***Ultimate Spider-Man #s 129-133 & Annual #3.***
- ***Ultimatum TP***, collecting the five-part killfest.
- ***Ultimatum: Requiem TP***, collecting the four ***Requiem specials.***
- ***Wolverine & Black Cat: Claws TP***, collecting the three-issue miniseries.
- ***Wolverine First Class: Class Actions TP***, collecting ***Wolverine First Class #s 17-21.***

Back to Press

- ***Daredevil #501 2nd Printing*** (SEP098021), in stores 11/25.
- ***Dark Reign: The List—Secret Warriors 2nd Printing*** (AUG098199), in stores 11/25.
- ***Deadpool #16 2nd Printing*** (SEP098020), in stores 11/25.
- ***Strange Tales #2 2nd Printing*** (AUG098200), in stores 11/25.
- ***Vengeance of the Moon Knight #2 2nd Printing*** (AUG098201), in stores 11/25.
- ***The Anchor #1 2nd Printing*** (SEP098046), in stores in mid-November.

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TOOK A WHILE TO CLEAR THE COBWEBS OUT OF MY HEAD.
HOPE I CAN SNEAK IN WITHOUT WAKING MJ.
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stanzfanz @ aol.com
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HAVE FUN WEB-SWINGING AROUND THE CITY?
APPARENTLY I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE HERE WITH A SPIDER SENSE.

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